

## NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

### CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD

#### FENCE (feet) CODE 382

##### DEFINITION

A constructed barrier to livestock, wildlife or people.

##### PURPOSES

This practice may be applied as part of a conservation management system to facilitate the application of conservation practices that treat the soil, water, air, plant animal and human resource concerns.

##### CONDITIONS WHERE THIS PRACTICE APPLIES

This practice may be applied on any area where livestock and/or wildlife control is needed, or where access to people is to be regulated. Fences are not needed where natural barriers will serve the purpose.

##### CRITERIA

Fencing materials shall be of a high quality and durability, and the construction performed to meet the intended management objectives.

Fences shall be positioned to facilitate management requirements.

Standard or conventional (barbed or smooth wire), suspension, woven wire, or electric fences shall consist of acceptable fencing designs to control the animal(s) or people of concern and meet the intended life of the practice.

Height, number, and spacing of wires will be installed to facilitate control and management of the animal(s) and people of concern.

Height, size, spacing and type of posts will be used that best provides the needs for the style of fence required and is best suited for the topography of the landscape.

##### CONSIDERATIONS

Consider installing fences in locations that will facilitate maintenance avoiding irregular terrain and/or water crossings.

Consider wildlife movement needs when locating fences.

Consider livestock management, handling, watering and feeding when locating fences.

Boundary fences shall comply with state laws and standards for construction.

Where applicable, clear right-of-ways will be established which will facilitate fence construction and maintenance.

Consider soil erosion potential when planning and constructing a fence on steep slopes.

##### PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Plans and specifications are to be prepared for specific field sites based on this standard and appropriate state or local statutes or laws.

*Additional guidance is provided in the NRCS Hawaii Specification for Non-electric Fence, Electric Fence, and Game-proof Fence.*

*Site-specific specifications are to be documented on the NRCS Hawaii Jobsheet for Non-electric Fence, Electric Fence, or Game-proof Fence, as appropriate and given to the client. Other documents such as worksheets, maps, and drawings may be used to plan and design the practice.*

## **OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE**

Regular inspection of fences should be part of an on-going management program. Inspection of fences after storm events is needed to facilitate the function of the intended use of the fence.

Maintenance and repairs will be performed as needed to facilitate the intended operation of the installed fence.

*Some items to be observed and/or corrected are:*

- *tension of wire;*
- *broken wires;*
- *holes in woven wire,*
- *staples pulled out;*
- *missing wire clips;*
- *post alignment; especially corner, gate, and end posts;*
- *post stability, rotting wooden posts;*
- *bent or broken posts;*
- *corroding steel posts or wire;*
- *broken welds on steel posts;*
- *sagging gates;*
- *bent or broken stays; and*
- *are the requirements for the intended purpose of the fence being fulfilled by the number, size, and spacing of the components of the fence?*

*For electric fences, additional items to be observed and/or corrected are:*

- *proper voltage;*
- *proper and improper grounding;*
- *proper insulation;*
- *electric fence warning signs; and*
- *holes in electric netting.*